

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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71

ACTION SS-25

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R 131118Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1762

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

US MISSION EC UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 19223

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: PERSPECTIVE OF PRESIDENT POMPIDOU

1. DCM AND PAO CALLED ON NEWLY-APPOINTED SPOKESMAN AT ELYSEE, XAVIER MARCHETTI, ON JULY 10. IN COURSE OF WIDE-RANGING FRANK DISCUSSION, MARCHETTI VOLUNTEERED THAT PRESIDENT POMPIDOU HAD PERSONAL GOAL OF BEING FRENCH PRESIDENT WHO, MORE THAN ANY OTHER, BROUGHT ABOUT MODERNIZATION AND INDUSTRIALIZATION OF FRANCE TO A POINT WHERE IT BECAME ONE OF THE, IF NOT THE, LEADING MODERN INDUSTRIAL POWERS OF EUROPE.

2. TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE, MARCHETTI SAID POMPIDOU NEEDED APPROXIMATELY TWELVE YEARS OF RELATIVE FRENCH POLITICAL STABILITY, AND HE HAD BELIEVED PROSPECTS OF ACHIEVING HIS OBJECTIVE WERE GOOD.

3. MARCHETTI CONFIRMED PRESIDENT'S DEEP PESSIMISM (SEE CONFIDENTIAL

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EMBTel 18776) AND ADDED THAT POMPIDOU'S DEPRESSION WAS SUB-

STANTIALY PROMPTED BY ESTIMATE THAT INCREASING SERIOUSNESS OF
MONETARY CRISIS WOULD IN TURN LEAD TO LOWERING OF WESTERN
DEFENSES WHICH IMPERILED HIS "GRAND DESIGN".

4. COMMENT: MARCHETTI'S STATEMENT REPRESENTS FRANK EXPOSITION
OF PRESIDENT'S ATTITUDE, AND WE FIND IT CONSISTENT WITH OTHER
REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM ELYSEE.
IRWIN

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NNN

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